



REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

POSITIVELY FALSE: Exposing the Myths Around HIV and AIDS

by Joan Shenton

Publisher: I. B. Tauris & Co., UK, 1998
ISBN: 1-86064-333-7 (291pp hc)

Price: AUD\$ n/a; £17.95; USD\$29.95
Available: **Aust**—Harry Howell, tel (02) 9427 2830; **UK**—I. B. Tauris & Co. Ltd, tel 0171 831 9060; **USA**—St Martin's Press, tel (212) 674 5151, 1800 321 9299

Opponents of the 'HIV = AIDS = Death' hypothesis are gaining voice within the scientific and medical communities, while millions of dollars are still being directed into the research, development and marketing of drug therapies like AZT which has already been proved to have fatal effects.

One maverick medical journalist, British award-winning documentary filmmaker Joan Shenton, has been tracking the controversy between the HIV/AIDS orthodoxy and its detractors for over a decade, and her book, *Positively False*, is a record of her investigations into this ongoing battle royal.

The leading light of dissent is microbiologist Dr Peter Duesberg who first went public in 1986 with his refutation of the 'HIV causes AIDS' hypothesis. His conclusion, that HIV is nothing more than inactive genetic fragments that cannot possibly cause AIDS, seems to have been vindicated as more scientists realise that HIV has never been isolated. His belief that AIDS is the result of immune system breakdown caused by toxic overload from drug abuse, pharmaceutical drug 'treatments' and impure blood-clotting

factors in transfusions has been vehemently put down by scientists and drug companies with vested interests in anti-AIDS drugs, test kits and their own egos.

Not only has promising scientific enquiry been sidelined in the name of profit and reputation, but many thousands in the industrialised West and Third World have died due to misdiagnosis and misprescribing.

CONVERSING WITH THE FUTURE: Visions of the Year 2020

by Jenna Catherine

Publisher: Wild Flower Press, USA, 1998
ISBN: 0-926524-45-3 (222pp tpb)

Price: AUD\$29.95 + \$7.50 p&h; £12.99; NLGf n/a; USD\$16.95

Available: **Aust**—Bhudevi, tel (07) 5534 9200; **UK**—Counter Culture, tel 01823 698895; **Europe**—NEXUS office; **USA**—Access Publishers Network, tel (616) 276 5196

When we think about our concept of 'the now' and our place in it, we tend to think in terms of the past and present. But to imagine that our totality includes ourselves in the future puts a whole new spin on reality. This is the basic premise of *Conversing with the Future*, the jumping-off point for author Jenna Catherine in her own mind-travelling forays into the future.

As an experiment, Catherine chose the year 2020 as her destination, and with the help of a spirit guide and people from present and future time zones she discovered a Utopian society based on love. It is a world where telepathy is the norm, but it's a type that incorporates expansion of the physical senses, fluid energy flow and dynamic resonance—and Catherine includes guidelines

on how to develop these abilities.

By the year 2020 we have learned how to open our hearts and be more intuitive, sensual, happy, humorous, generous and respectful. Fear only gets a look-in when viewed as an opportunity for emotional growth.

Mental health has become 'mindcare' and people can visit clinics where they hook into 'light machines' to enhance their knowledge and intuition. Relationships and family life, education, entertainment, communication, business and economics have all undergone fundamental positive shifts by 2020, according to Catherine's visions.

So how do we get to this future paradise? Catherine suggests we should imagine it as achievable and connect with it as though it were already a reality. As for what happens in the meantime, we are left none the wiser.



REVIEWS



BOOKS

HAARP: The Ultimate Weapon of the Conspiracy

by Jerry E. Smith

Publisher: AUP, USA, 1998

ISBN: 0-932813-53-4 (256pp tpb)

Price: AUD\$30.00; NZD\$ n/a; £13.50;

NLGf n/a; USD\$14.95 +p&h

Available: **Aust/NZ/UK/Europe**— NEXUS offices (see page 2 for details); **USA**—

Adventures Unlimited Press, tel (815) 253 6390, fax (815) 253 6300

One of the most controversial experiments in the history of the world is to go fully on line in 1999. But is the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP), based at Gakona, southwest Alaska, just a Big Science project or a Big Military project that is part of a New World Order conspiracy? According to author Jerry Smith in this latest book on HAARP, the latter is the case, and he devotes much space to examining why. The scientists who have the 'official' job of using the antenna array to research the aurora borealis seem to be ill-informed of the alleged military agenda and its awesome potential to inflict great harm on this planet and its inhabitants.

In this comprehensive treatment, *HAARP: The Ultimate Weapon of the Conspiracy*, Smith analyses HAARP's background in terms of Tesla technology, the Bernard Eastlund patent for altering the Earth's atmospheric, ionospheric and/or magnetospheric regions, and electromagnetic warfare between the ex-USSR and the USA. He asks whether HAARP is 'science out of control' or a 'Star Wars' project, and warns that it may contravene international treaties.

Apart from one overt military purpose of facilitating communication with submarines, research suggests that the HF and ELF waves that HAARP can broadcast are capable of modifying the weather and altering the mental states and behaviours of entire populations. Yet even the military can't say what will happen when gigawatts of energy are focused on the ionosphere. Smith urges that we need to encourage debate and lobby governments and agencies—whether we want to stop the project or at least insist that appropriate safety controls are put in place.

VITAL SIGNS

by Andy Thomas

Publisher: S B Publications, UK, 1998

ISBN: 1-85770-155-0 (144pp tpb)

Price: £12.95; NLGf n/a; USD\$20.00

Available: **UK/Europe**— NEXUS offices;

USA—New Leaf, tel 1800 326 2665

Crop circle enthusiasts in England wait in eager anticipation every spring and summer to see what artistic and geometric wonders will be etched in Zen-like impermanence across the fields. But so do the debunkers. Sadly, the hoaxing scandals of recent years have diverted serious public attention from the mysterious phenomenon.

In his third book, *Vital Signs*, Andy Thomas appeals to people who may be quite sceptical about crop circles but retain some spark of curiosity that can be rekindled. He presents a brief history of the phenomenon, including scientific, statistical and geometric analysis of various examples, backed up with b&w photographs and diagrams plus a separate section of

colour plates. He then explores other anomalous evidence—e.g., records of accompanying strange lights and sounds, and reports of 'missing time' and physical/psychological effects within these glyphs—which may assist our eventual understanding of the complete picture.

So, based on the available evidence, if only a fraction of crop circles are hoaxes, how did they get there? Who or what is responsible for creating them? Thomas considers a number of hypotheses such as natural Earth forces, nature spirits, extradimensional/terrestrial intelligences and even human psychic interaction, and suggests the phenomenon has already had quite a transformative effect on sections of humanity. The meaning of these glyphs may still be eluding our conscious minds, but can we say absolutely that we're *not* being affected subconsciously and collectively? (See our pick of the 1998 UK crop in this issue.)





REVIEWS

BOOKS

FORBIDDEN ARCHEOLOGY'S IMPACT

by Michael A. Cremo

Publisher: Bhaktivedanta Book Publishing, USA, 1998

ISBN: 0-89213-283-3 (569pp hc)

Price: AUD\$ n/a; NZD\$ n/a; £27.50;

NLGf n/a; USD\$35.00; CAD\$50.00

Available: **Aust**—Gemcraft, tel (03) 9888

0111; **UK/Europe**—NEXUS offices; **USA**—Torchlight Publishing, Inc., 3046 Oakhurst Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034, tel 1888 867 2458, www.torchlight.com

Few books have attracted as much vehement attack and glowing praise as *Forbidden Archeology*, written by Michael Cremo and Richard Thompson. This exhaustively researched 900-page book documents the considerable anomalous evidence for extreme human antiquity that has been gathered over the last century or so but suppressed by mainstream scientists because it conflicted with the prevailing paradigm about our origins and history.

The reactions to the 1993 release of this book, and to the 1996 NBC broadcast of the documentary *Mysterious Origins of Man* (which featured Cremo), came from both mainstream and maverick scientists and historians as well as creationists, conspiracy theorists, schoolteachers and ufologists. Some found the information threatening; others considered it revelatory. The authors were surprised at the variety and intensity of the reactions, and Cremo suggests that the book had struck "a sensitive spot at some deep level of the modern psyche".

So, for the sake of posterity and in the interests of scholarly enquiry, Cremo has compiled this material into another book of forbidding size: *Forbidden Archeology's Impact*. It contains journal articles and transcripts of papers Cremo has delivered on the first book; reviews published in academic and non-academic publications; Cremo's responses to negative criticism, which journals refused to print; selected correspondence with scientists, philosophers and other interested parties; and transcripts of radio and television interviews as well as Internet exchanges about the book. This is an important sourcebook for what it shows of the 'knowledge filter' in action.

MAYA COSMOGENESIS 2012

by John Major Jenkins

Publisher: Bear & Co., USA, 1998

ISBN: 1-879181-48-7 (431pp tpb)

Price: AUD\$39.95; NZD\$52.95; £14.99;

NLGf n/a; USD\$20.00

Distributors: **Aust**—Gemcraft, tel (03)

9888 0111; **NZ**—Peaceful Living, tel (07)

571 8105; **UK**—Airlift Book Co., tel 0181

804 0400; **Europe**—NEXUS office, tel +31

(0)321 380558; **USA**—Bear & Company

Publishing, tel (505) 983 5968, 1800 WE-

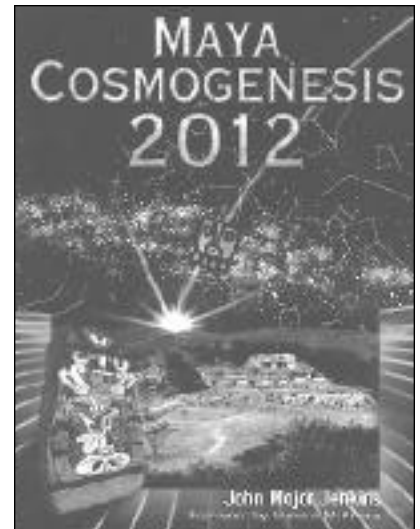
BEARS, fax (505) 989 8386

Why did the Maya choose the date of 21 December 2012 to mark the end-time of their long-count calendar? And why mark the (northern) winter solstice?

Studying the star charts, independent scholar/author John Major Jenkins noted that a very rare alignment in the precessional cycle will occur on the December solstice in 2012, when the sun conjuncts the centre of our Milky Way galaxy. Seasonal alignments occur once every 6,450 years, but this

December solstice of 2012 occurs once every 25,800 years! Jenkins surmised that the Maya, like many other ancient cultures, were aware of precessional cycles, but it was no coincidence that they marked this date. Indeed, as he discovered, it was central to their cosmology, mythology and calendars, as was the idea of galactic centre as the source of life. The Maya even had a glyph to represent the black hole at galactic centre—the existence of which has only recently been confirmed by astronomers.

In his expansive new book, *Maya Cosmogenesis 2012*, Jenkins explains how the Maya revered the end-time as a zero point, entered through galactic centre and involving an energy field-effect reversal and rebirth into a new World Age. In explaining his thesis, he takes us on a heady trip through Maya shamanic rites, the origin and



REVIEWS



BOOKS

development of the long-count calendar at the sacred site of Izapan, the galactic geometry and symbolism of the ball court, and much more. Jenkins' findings not only extend our understanding of Maya cosmology; they have great significance for humanity at the evolutionary crossroads.

MY SEARCH FOR TRACES OF GOD by Philip S. Callahan, PhD

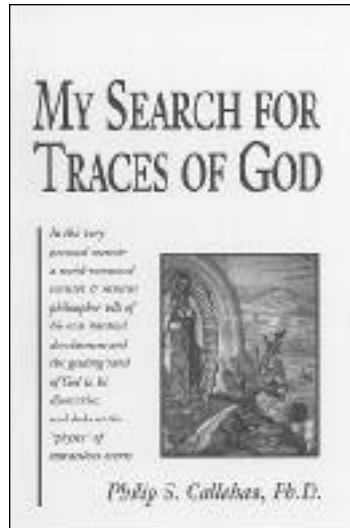
Publisher: *Acres USA*, USA, 1997
ISBN: 0-911311-54-8 (215pp tpb)
Price: AUD\$39.00 including p&h;
USD\$18.00 (USA p&h add 10%; foreign
p&h add 20%)
Available: **Australia**—*Acres Australia*, tel
(07) 5449 1884, fax (07) 5449 1889;
USA—*Acres USA*, PO Box 8800, Metairie,
Louisiana 70011, tel (504) 889 2100,
1800 355 5313 (toll free in USA), fax (504)
889 2777

One of this age's remarkable men is Dr Phil Callahan, a scientist-philosopher who has dedicated his life to understanding Nature and how God's plan is enacted through it. His latest book, *My Search For Traces of God*, is a very touching, personal memoir wherein he records the formative experiences that sparked his explorations into the physics of Divine Providence.

Serendipitously, Dr Callahan spent some of these formative years as a US serviceman and radio technician in wartime Ireland where he had profound insights into Nature, e.g., the role of insect antennae as frequency tuners, and of the Irish round towers in amplifying Earth energy and utilising soil paramagnetism for the benefit of agriculture

and the people. Dr Callahan has detailed these discoveries and more in other books and papers (a complete list of these is printed herein), but his aim here is to present personal vignettes in the hope of transmitting a sense of the sacred to the reader.

Dr Callahan's eco-ethical quest is imbued with a religious fervour, which may help explain his interest in the scientific analysis of Virgin Mary sightings around the world. Such apparitions tend to occur in highly paramagnetic locations, and it's no accident that sacred monuments and places of worship are sited in similarly highly charged areas. His treasure-trove of research, from his experiments with the candle flame's far-infrared spectrum radiation to the sine-wave dynamics of space-time, has far-reaching implications for our understanding of life and our place and purpose in the Universe.



THE GIZA POWER PLANT: Technologies of Ancient Egypt by Christopher P. Dunn

Publisher: *Bear & Co.*, USA, 1998
ISBN: 1-879181-50-9 (288pp tpb)
Price: AUD\$36.95; NZD\$47.95; £12.99;
USD\$18.00

Distributors: **Aust**—*Gemcraft*, tel (03)
9888 0111; **NZ**—*Peaceful Living*, tel (07)
571 8105; **UK**—*Airlift Book Co.*, tel 0181
804 0400; **USA**—*Bear & Co. Publishing*,
tel (505) 983 5968, fax (505) 989 8386

It was back in 1977, after reading Peter Tompkins' book, *Secrets of the Great Pyramid*, that Christopher Dunn (a UK-born, US-based master craftsman) first embarked on his own quest to unravel the Pyramid mysteries. Studying the edifice with an engineer's eye, he was impressed by how much the schematics reminded him of a machine—a very big one, at that. Twenty years later, his theories form the basis of his book, *The Giza Power Plant*.

Dunn's premise is that the Great Pyramid was actually a power-generating complex, the King's Chamber being its power centre and the Queen's Chamber its hydrogen fuel production centre. He deduces that the early Egyptians (or their predecessors) found a way of converting the Earth's resonant or vibrational energy into microwave energy by way of a combined chemical reaction and acoustic filtering technique, but to achieve this the Pyramid had to be built to exacting specifications. Of course, the cutting and polishing of their stone blocks and artefacts also required precision craftsmanship with advanced tools and techniques which are yet to find their way into the archaeological record. That the King's Chamber is a resonant structure has been noticed by other



REVIEWS

BOOKS

researchers, but this engineer has worked out, in theory, how the entire monument operated.

As for how the Egyptians would have transmitted or used the energy they generated is difficult to determine as few clues remain; but Dunn speculates that they may even have used it to power interplanetary spacecraft! This is an intriguing study that will help rewrite the Egyptian textbooks.

THE MARS MYSTERY

by **Graham Hancock, Robert Bauval and John Grigsby**

Publisher: Michael Joseph Ltd, UK, 1998; Crown Publishers, USA, 1998 (Hancock by-line only)

ISBN: 0-7181-4314-0 (hc, UK), 0-7181-4354-X (374pp tpb); 0-609-60086-9 (344pp hc, USA)

Price: AUD\$24.95 (tpb); NZD\$49.95 (hc), NZD\$29.95 (tpb); £16.99 (hc); USD\$26.00 (hc)

Distributors: **Aust/NZ**—Penguin Books; **UK**—Bookshops; **USA**—Random House

There is much more in this book than is even implied in its title, *The Mars Mystery*, for it speculates on a catastrophic cosmic event which destroyed the Martian atmosphere and had tumultuous impact on Earth. Further, it suggests that major extinction-causing cataclysms occur cyclically about every 30 million years and have happened in relatively recent times.

Drawing on the ever-growing body of astronomical evidence, authors Graham Hancock, Robert Bauval and John Grigsby suggest that a large comet fragmented near Mars approx. 20,000 years ago, resulting in

massive strikes on the southern Martian regions that dislodged a huge chunk of the crust on the opposite side of the planet. Fragments apparently rained down on Earth in two waves—13,000 to 12,000 years ago, and 11,000 to 10,000 years ago—effectively ending the most recent ice age.

The remnant of the cometary explosion is believed to be the vast Taurid meteor shower, with its attendant asteroids and large bodies like Comet Encke, through which Earth passes twice a year. The authors note that periods of chaos and rapid climate change have occurred every 1,000 to 500 years since this explosion and have marked rapid declines of civilisations. They reopen the book on the Martian monuments controversy and draw comparisons between the destruction of possibly parallel civilisations on Mars and at Giza, Egypt.

Considering the evidence, how can we be complacent about the serious threat posed by the staggering number of Earth-crossing asteroids and comets that have the potential to create a Martian-scale disaster on Earth? We could be in for a very rough ride...

HOW PRAYER HEALS

by **Walter Weston**

Publisher: Hampton Roads, USA, 1998

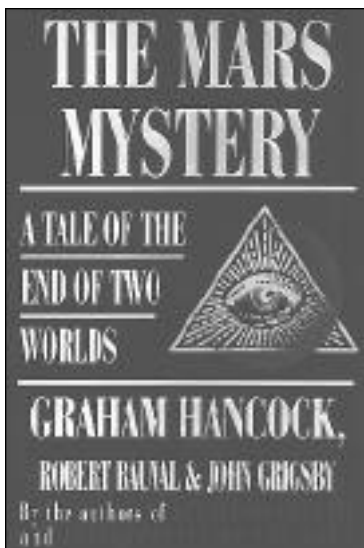
ISBN: 1-57174-092-9 (319pp tpb)

Price: AUD\$26.95; NZD\$33.95; £10.99; NLGf n/a; USD\$12.95

Distributors: **Aust**—Gemcraft, tel (03) 9888 0111; **NZ**—Peaceful Living, tel (07) 571 8105; **UK**—Airlift Book Co., tel 0181 804 0400; **Europe**—Try NEXUS office; **USA**—Hampton Roads, tel (804) 296 2772, 1800 766 8009, fax (804) 296 5096; **Can**—Dempsey, tel (604) 708 1081

The body of scientific evidence demonstrating the healing power of prayer is increasing at an encouraging rate, as Dr Walter Weston describes in the third book in his 'healing prayer' series, *How Prayer Heals: A Scientific Approach*.

Dr Weston is a Methodist minister in the US and a staunch advocate and practitioner of the healing prayer, particularly using the spoken word, the group dynamic, the hands-on approach and a modicum of faith. He explains that the chief requirement to set up the correct healing frequency is for the healer to establish a compassionate healing intent for the patient that is preferably based on a loving connection with God (regardless of religion). However, he does concede that some successful healing techniques utilise an understanding of energy dynamics without recourse to prayer. In one scientific study involving many healers using a variety of modalities, all were shown to emanate healing energy at the frequency of 7.83



REVIEWS



BOOKS

Hz—the same as the Schumann resonance which pervades the Earth itself.

Orthodox medical practitioners are still catching up with the human energy field paradigm which considers the total being—physical, emotional, mental, spiritual. But the more they are exposed to the positive, holistic results reported from the intercession of directed, love-motivated prayer and touch, the more open-minded they'll be to incorporating this approach in their treatments. Weston's advice for the 'uninitiated' is based on sound principles, and his book is recommended even for hardened sceptics.

THE FBI FILES: The FBI's UFO Top Secrets Exposed by Nicholas Redfern

Publisher: Simon & Schuster, UK, 1998
ISBN: 0-684-85148-2 (354pp tpb)
Price: AUD\$24.95; NZD\$29.95; £9.99;
NLGf n/a; USD\$16.00
Distributors: **Aust/UK/USA**—Simon & Schuster; **NZ**—MacMillan, tel (09) 415 6672; **Europe**—Try NEXUS office.

Having analysed nearly 3,000 pages of recently declassified FBI documents on the UFO phenomenon, author Nick Redfern (*A Covert Agenda*) has to conclude that the truth is still 'out there'. Yet these documents, spanning 1947 to the early 1990s, confirm that the FBI did (and no doubt still does) take an active interest in the phenomenon from the perspective of 'internal security'—albeit in competition with the military and other agencies who've had the upper hand. This is more 'X-Files' than the TV series, and who can guess at what's in the still-declassified FBI files, let alone in those



of the Air Force, Navy, CIA, NSA, etc.

Nick Redfern has pieced together a revealing history of agency and military reports, many describing craft and strange green fireballs sighted by reliable eyewitnesses including Air Force and civilian pilots and law officers. The documents in the early years reflect not only the enormous number of sightings across the USA, but FBI Director Hoover's paranoia about being left out of the official loop. They also speak of the FBI's uncertainty over whether the craft were Soviet in origin, were part of an ultra-top-secret US or ex-Nazi project, or were extraterrestrial. The latter explanation seemed to gain favour, and through the 1950s and '60s the FBI amassed substantial files on 'contactees' like George Adamski. The files show that the FBI's attention was later grabbed by related mysteries including the animal mutilation phenomenon, alien abductions, the mysterious MJ-12 group and the infamous Men in Black.

That these files have been released at all surely suggests that the public is being prepared for an official acknowledgement on the reality of UFOs and extraterrestrials.

THE PHOENIX SOLUTION by Alan F. Alford

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton, 1998
ISBN: 0-340-69614-1 (484pp hc)
Price: AUD\$49.95; NZD\$69.95; £18.99;
NLGf 78.00; USD\$40.00
Distributors: **Aust/NZ**—Hodder Headline; **UK**—Hodder & Stoughton; **Europe/USA**—Eridu Books, UK, tel +44 1543 370453

In attempting to unravel the mysteries of ancient Egypt, Alan Alford (*Gods of the New Millennium*) has stumbled upon compelling evidence suggesting that the mythology and religion of the Egyptians was based on knowledge of cosmic catastrophes; moreover, that the source of this knowledge was an advanced, pre-dynastic race who lived alongside the Nile tribes for a relatively short time and probably built the original Great Pyramid at least as early as the 5th millennium BC—earlier than the Sphinx and all the other pyramids, he contends.

Alford draws on the work of astronomer Tom Van Flandern who, in the late 1970s, first proposed his 'exploded planet' hypothesis to explain comet origins and the formation of asteroid belts in our solar system, and has identified catastrophic planetary explosions/collisions that occurred 250, 65 and 3.2 million years ago. Alford sees the key Egyptian myths concerning Osiris and Isis, Horus and Set, and other 'gods' as paralleling the 'cosmic battle in the heavens' between a transiting planet colliding with and/or destabilising other planets and moons



REVIEWS

in our solar system, causing 'fireballs' and 'floods' to rain down on Earth. Ancient Sumerian legends about Enki and Enlil and even Plato's Atlantis myth relate to the same cosmic events, he asserts.

So, who was this 'lost race' that passed on this cosmic knowledge to the Egyptians and Sumerians? According to Alford, not necessarily extraterrestrials but quite possibly a terrestrial intelligentsia who had invented the telescope. As for specifics, we're left in the dark. However, for records of these cosmic events to have been left for the pre-dynastic Egyptians to discover, surely at least one of these events happened not too long beforehand—by some accounts, as recently as around 12,500 years ago.

THE ASTHMA BREAKTHROUGH

by Henry Osiecki, BSc.

Publisher: BioEthics Press Ltd, Australia, New Zealand, 1998

ISBN: 1-875239-15-4 (142pp tpb)

Price: AUD\$24.95; NZD\$24.95; £12.50; NLGf n/a

Available: **Australia**—Bioethics Press, tel (07) 3352 5088; **New Zealand**—BioEthics Press, tel/fax (09) 376 0219; **UK/Europe**—NEXUS offices

The statistics demonstrate that the medical approach to dealing with asthma has failed dismally in effectively treating this condition in children and adults. For instance, one in ten Australians has asthma, with an average of one in four children affected, and similar statistics have been reported in New Zealand and the UK. So what's causing this? Is there something about our post-industrial society that is promoting this debilitating, recurring illness?

According to Australian nutritionist Henry Osiecki, far too much emphasis has been placed on temporary alleviation of symptoms, rather than on understanding the condition and the causes of asthma. In *The Asthma Breakthrough*, Osiecki maintains that asthma is the result of complex biochemical processes and does not begin and end solely with the lungs. So, to deal with the problem, it is essential to promote general physical health but with a special focus on boosting the immune system and combating allergic reactions. Often this means avoiding substances which have immune-suppressing effects—anything from chemicals and pesticides to artificial colourings, chlorinated water and vaccines.

The contrast between the pharmaceutical preparations and the nutritional and alternative treatments that Osiecki presents is telling, and it's reprehensible that the public is so ill-informed about the options which have a high success rate in treating asthma.

Often the remedy is as simple as adopting different dietary guidelines, and Osiecki offers practical suggestions as well as recipes for promoting asthma-free living.

SECRET CITIES OF OLD SOUTH AMERICA

by Harold T. Wilkins

Publisher: Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 1998 (first published 1952)

ISBN: 0-932813-55-0 (470pp tpb)

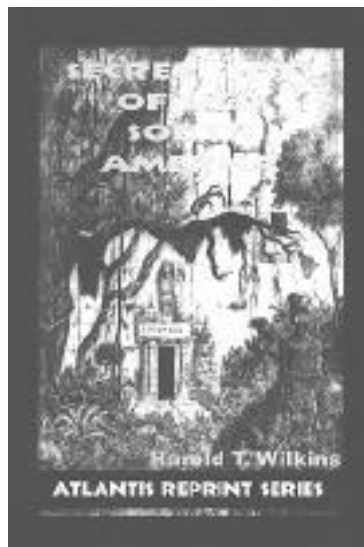
Price: AUD\$35.00; NZD\$ n/a; £15.50; NLGf n/a; USD\$16.95 + p&h

Available: **Aust/NZ/UK/Europe**—NEXUS offices (see details on page 2); **USA**—Adventures Unlimited, PO Box 74, Kempton, IL 60946, tel (815) 253 6390

The US publisher Adventures Unlimited performs a worthy service in reprinting many hard-to-get books on lost civilisations that otherwise would become as lost as their subject matter.

This latest reprint, *Secret Cities of Old South America*, was first published in 1952 and was written by Harold T. Wilkins, a British historian who obviously enjoys poking fun at the establishment historical worldview, as he has done throughout these information-packed pages.

In this sequel to his 1946 book, *Mysteries of Ancient South America*, Wilkins presents evidence from mythology, from records of early Spanish expeditions and early 20th century European and American explorers, and from artefacts, inscriptions and ancient texts that suggests South America was once part of a vast empire known as Atlantis. The scope extends beyond South America, for Wilkins argues that the Atlantean sphere of influence took in Central America, the Caribbean, Ireland, Spain and Egypt before its final cataclysmic destruction.



REVIEWS



Especially fascinating is the documentation about bearded white races existant in northern Brazil, in Peru and around Lake Titicaca—perhaps the descendants of pre-cataclysmic colonists. But also amazing are Wilkins' accounts of Amazonian women warriors, the secret lost city of Gran Paytiti in the Peruvian Andes, monstrous creatures whose existence was noted by local Indians as recently as last century, and the search for the gold of El Dorado. This is a wholly involving journey, and we can only wonder at what other treasures await discovery.

WORLD AGES

by Björn H. Hammarskog

Publisher: Pentland Press, USA, 1997

ISBN: 1-57197-057-6 (253pp tpb)

Price: £11.25; USD\$18.95 + \$3.50 p&h

Available: **UK**—Pentland Press, tel 01388 776555; **USA**—Pentland Press, tel (919) 782 0281, fax (919) 781 9042; Associated Publishers, tel 1800 327 5113

If you're only just catching on to the idea that civilisations have come and gone in a cosmic eye-twinkling many times on this planet but don't know where to direct your attention first, then start with a book that has a broad scope. This one, *World Ages*, considers the mythology and artefacts of ancient civilisations with regard to geological and astronomical evidence that points to cataclysmic events of greater and lesser degree affecting their progress. It's written by a Swedish consulting engineer, Björn Hammarskog, who, at 60, has finally taken to writing about his lifelong passion—the pursuit of humanity's age-old questions.

Skipping us through ancient pre-history, Hammarskog takes us into worlds where myths and legends could well be accounts of ancient catastrophes—as demonstrated, for example, in the variety of Creation and Flood myths recorded around the planet. Next, he conducts a whirlwind but fact-packed tour of ancient cultures, including Sumer, Babylon, Egypt, Crete, the Canary Islands, Scandinavia, India, China, the Pacific, Mesoamerica, the Andes and, of course, Atlantis—which he speculates existed in the Persian Gulf before major climatic change devastated the region.

Indeed, climatic change, from the catastrophic to the mildly drastic, has been occurring on a cyclic basis, affecting different parts of the Earth since time immemorial, and Hammarskog argues that it would be foolish to reject the evidence for cosmic events such as cometary impacts inducing such change in the past—or in the future.

VIDEOS

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

PROPHECY AND PREDICTION: Threat or Warning?

Producer: Film Montage, Australia, 1998
www.prophecyandprediction.com.au

Price: Telephone local contact for details (PAL & NTSC, 87mins)

Available: **Australia**—Film Montage, tel (03) 9699 2885; **NZ/UK/Eur**—NEXUS offices (see p. 2); **USA**—Matrix Institute, tel (603) 256 6759, 1800 628 7493

Most video documentaries on this subject often fall far short of the mark in terms of what people are interested in. Nearly all of us are sick and tired of the ambiguous Nostradamus, as though he were the only prophet out there.

This company did it right: they came to us for source material, and I am pleased to see a lot of it in this excellent film! As a result, you have Gordon-Michael Scallion, Tom Kaye, Mother Shipton, Malcolm Jagamara and others who normally never make it onto the screen.

The Channel 9 network broadcast a chopped-down version of this film on the night of 2 September, right across Australia, triggering much more work for Ronnie Burns, the main man on this show.

CD-ROM

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

THE UFO ANTHOLOGY Volume One

Producer: Dreamland Interactive, USA, 1998

Price: USD\$34.95

Platforms: Windows 95 (ugh); Windows NT, Windows 98, Mac and PowerMacs

Available: **USA**—Dreamland Interactive, tel +1 (818) 843 2945, 1888-UFO-WAVE, website, www.4dreamland.com

This is a really neat CD! Fully interactive, with literally hours of exploration into all facets of UFO research, including crop circles, implants and cattle mutilations. It contains video material featuring Bob Dean, Linda Moulton Howe, Dr Roger Leir, Jaime Maussan, Colin Andrews, astronaut Brian O'Leary and many more.

The producers have gone to considerable time and expense to get the best names in their fields onto this interactive CD. On top of these presentations, there are heaps of UFO pictures and film footage which will take you hours to get through.

(Readers of the Australian, US/Canada and UK/Europe editions will notice there is an advertisement for this excellent CD on the back or inside cover.)



REVIEWS

AUDIO

Reviewed by Richard Giles

WOMEN OF SPIRIT

by Various Artists

Producer: Dan Storper for Putumayo World Music, USA, 1998 (60mins)

Distributors: **Australia**—MRA

Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **USA**—Putumayo, tel (212) 625 1400

The US music company Putumayo has been a pioneer in the traditional music field, combining contemporary styles with national song. *Women of Spirit* is a collection of 13 original and extraordinary artists from 11 countries whose music redefines modern women's song. Brazilian, South African, Sudanese, Cameroon, Peruvian, French, Greek, Scottish and other women pour out their hearts and souls on this exceptional collection. Inspiring, uplifting, exciting music, guaranteed to grab you.

ENTER THE HEART

by Estéban

Producer: Robert Brock and Estéban for Daystar Records, USA, 1998 (58mins)

Distributors: **USA**—Daystar Productions, tel 1800 523 4059; Rock Bottom, tel (770) 448 8439, fax (770) 246 0820

Trained under classical guitarist Andres Segovia, Estéban is a renowned virtuoso acoustic guitarist with nine albums to his credit. *Enter the Heart* contains all original material, much of it dedicated to his various teachers. "Flamenco Wind" is dedicated to Vicenté Gomez, the amazing "Blue Lotus" to Paramahansa Yogananda, and "Avenida Concha Espiña" to Segovia. Estéban has a passionate and direct approach, and his mastery of many styles demonstrates a special versatility. With instrumental and percussive backing, he creates wonderful, emotional, feel-good music to be cherished.

THE JOURNEY

by Maryam Mursal

Producer: Simon Emmerson for Real World Records, UK, 1998 (53mins)

Distributors: **Australia**—Festival Records, **UK**—Real World Records; **USA**—Narada, tel (414) 961 8350

In the 1970s, Maryam Mursal performed with Waaberi, a 300-strong Somali troupe of singers, dancers and musicians. When civil war split Somalia apart, the troupe broke up and Maryam fled across the desert with her family in 1991, finally settling in Denmark. *The Journey* is her second album, and with Peter Gabriel, Hossam Ramzy, former Waaberi members and Danish friends she has produced a funky, upbeat African

sound laced with her Somali roots. This is truly energetic, exciting and stirring music with a message.

SILENCIUM: SONGS OF THE SPIRIT by The Silencium Ensemble

Producer: John Harle for Decca Records, UK, 1997 (62mins)

Distributor: **Aus/NZ/UK/USA**—PolyGram

Three extraordinary sopranos working with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, the choir of Worcester Cathedral and the children of the New Brighton Primary School, produced by tenor John Harle with world music backing, makes this a stirring, uplifting album of choral and meditative music. *Silencium* lifts the sound from your speakers, taking it soaring to the rafters. Beautiful, experiential, spiritual music.

PILGRIMAGE

by The New London Consort

Producer: Simon Cloquet & Eric Calvi for Point Music, UK, 1997 (53mins)

Distributor: **Aus/NZ/UK/USA**—Polygram

The melodies of 13th-century pilgrims, who travelled on religious quest to Santiago de Compostela, northwest Spain, are captured in this mediaeval/fusion music combined with chanting-style vocals from British soprano Catherine Bott. The specialness of choral music blended with an ambient, rhythmic flair, brings a modern quality to these hymns while retaining their sacred essence. Superbly ecstatic sounds.

• • • SPECIAL GIVEAWAY • • •

PolyGram Australia is offering NEXUS readers a chance to win a CD of either the *Pilgrimage* or *Silencium* albums. Write your name and address on the back of a plain envelope, address it to NEXUS MUSIC GIVEAWAY at PO Box 30, Mapleton, Qld 4560, Australia, and post it so it arrives by Thursday 15 October. The first 10 envelopes drawn will receive a free copy of one of these two albums.

